

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 24, 2004 has been received and carefully considered. In response, applicant has cancelled claims 1-3, 5, 10-13 and 15-23; has amended claims 4, 6, 7, 9 and 14 and has added new claims 24-32 for consideration. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 6-9, 14 24-32 patentably distinguish from the cited references and are allowable whereby reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges that an election was made of Group 1 corresponding to claims 1-19 and 14. The non-elected claims have been cancelled from this application by this Amendment.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowability of claims 6 and 9 upon rewriting these claims in independent form. Applicant, by this Amendment, has amended claims 6 and 9 into independent form, including all limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the rejection involves the wording "said metal structure" in line 1 of the claim. Applicant, by this Amendment, has amended claim 14 replacing "said metal structure" with the wording --said metal member--. Applicant respectfully submits that this wording is supported by the recitation of this claim. According, applicant respectfully submits that claim 14, as amended, satisfies Section 112.

Claims 4, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Long No. 2,001,204. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 7 and 8 are not anticipated by Long. In this respect, claims 4 and 7 have been amended to be dependent from new claim 32 which includes allowable subject matter from allowable claim 9. Claim 8 is dependent on claim 7. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 7 and 8 patentably distinguish from the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 32. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in allowable form.

Claim 4 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rieger No. 4,759,110 and La Fiandra No. 4,453,106. As is stated above, claim 4 has been amended to be dependent from new claim 32 that includes allowable subject matter from allowable claim 9. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment also overcomes the 102 rejection in view of Rieger and La Fiandra in that claim 4 patentably distinguishes from the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 32.

Claim 4 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Beynon No. 1,938,995 or publication JP 61142024A. As is stated above, claim 4 patentably distinguishes from the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 32 and is considered to be in allowable form.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Long, Beynon, JP 61142024, Rieger, or La Fiandra. Claim 14 has also been amended to be dependent from allowable claim 32. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 patentably distinguishes from the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 32. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 14 is in allowable form.

In response to the comments made by the Examiner in the above-identified Office Action, applicant respectfully disagrees with some of the comments made and does not acquiesce to the statements in the Office Action.

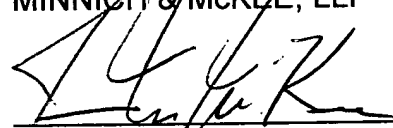
Applicant has also added new claims 24-32 for consideration. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24-32 patentably distinguish from the said references and are also in allowable form whereby consideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that each issue raised in the above-identified Office Action has been addressed by this Amendment. Applicant again acknowledges with appreciation the allowability of claim 6 and 9 upon rewriting these claims into independent form. Applicant, by this Amendment, has made such an amendment. Further, claims 4, 7, 8 and 14 are all dependent from new claim 32 which includes allowable subject matter from allowable claim 9 whereby these claims are also considered to be in allowable form. Applicant has also addressed the Section 112 rejection raised by the Examiner. Further, Applicant has added new claims 24-32 which

further define the invention of this application and include subject matter patentably distinguishable from the cited references. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 6-9, 14 and 24-32 clearly define the invention of this application and patentably distinguish from the cited references whereby reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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